Loss accumulated by regional rural banks

3066. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Regional Rural Banks have accumulated a loss of Rs. 132.85 crores by the end of December, 1986 and that the loss is mounting since then;

(b) if so, what action Government is contemplating to remedy the situation, and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that the accumulated losses of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) which stood at Rs. 94.31 crores at the end of December 1986 rose to Rs. 133.10 crores as at the end of December, 1987.

(b) and (c) Government had appointed a 'Working Group on RRBs' to examine in detail the financial and organisational aspects of these institutions and suggest remedial measures. The Working Group suggested a number of measures to strengthen these banks. Some of the recommendations of the Working Group which have been accepted and are under implementation are as under:

(i) Enhancing of paid up capital of the RRBs from existing Rs. 25 lakhs to Rs. 1 crore in phases;

(ii) Lowering of refinance rate of sponsor bank from 8.5 per cent to 7 per cent.

(iii) Sponsor Banks were advised to invest in approved securities the surplus funds of RRBs to obtain higher return.

Apart from these financial measures, the Working Group also recommended more active involvement of sponsor banks in the management of Regional Rural Banks. All these measures are expected to improve the financial position of these banks.

Central assistance for forest plantation in tribal areas of Orissa

3067. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have given assistance to the State of Orissa for forest plantation in the tribal areas;

(b) if so, the details of the areas covered thereby; and

(c) what are the different kinds of plants planted in these areas under this centrally sponsored scheme during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Central assistance is provided under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes for raising Minor Forest Produce, Establishment of Silvipastural Farms, Decentralised People's Nurseries and Rural Fuelwood Plantations. The tribal areas covered are being in the districts of Keonjhar, Kalahandi, Sundargarh, Koraput, Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Sambalpur and Phulbani.

(c) Mainly fuelwood, fodder, fruit and minor forest produce yielding species are being planted.

Demand of coffee growers

3068. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item captioned "Coffee planter's seek help following pact collapse" as reported in the Economic Times of 13th July, 1989;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to protect the interests of the coffee growers after the collapse of the International Coffee agreement; and

(c) what other steps Government propose to take to provide relief to the coffee growers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (c) It is difficult to assess at this stage the repercussions of the alleged collapse of the International Coffee Agreement.

The suspension of quotas *w.e.f.* 4-7-89 is not expected to pose any serious problem for disposal of available exportable surplus of coffee as some grades of Indian Coffee are by far the best in the world. The situation would however be watched and steps taken to market our coffee internally as well as abroad.

Mobilisation of funds by income-tax officers through collection of income-tax and corporation tax

3069. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have directed the Income Tax Officers to mobilise funds and also set a target for collection of income-tax and corporation tax during the coming years;

(b) whether any action plan has been prepared in this regard; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Instructions have been issued to the Chief Commissioners of Income-tax to maximise the revenue collections for the current financial year. For financial year 1989-90, the Budget Estimates for income-tax and Corporation-tax have been placed at Rs. 4245 crores and Rs. 4755 crores respectively.

(b) and (c) The action plan for collection of Income-tax and Corporation-tax during 1989-90 has been prepared and circulated among all the Chief Commissioners of Income-tax in June, 1989. Annual targets have been fixed for each Chief Commissioner's region on the basis of collections made during 1988-89. Monthly targets have also been fixed for better monitoring and control.

Delhi Judicial Service Examination

3070. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI:

SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Administration has created a large number of new posts in the Subordinate Judicial Service, Delhi, if so, what is the existing number of vacancies;

(b) whether it is proposed to hold the Delhi Judicial Service Examination in 1989;

(c) whether the Delhi Administration has any objection to relax the age limit for eligibility from 32 to 35 years for the said examination in line with the practice followed in most of the States, as also because no such examination has been held after 1984 and further that it may be difficult to select befitting officers for such a large number of vacancies unless senior and experienced candidates upto the age of 35 years are also permitted to take up the examination; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir. There are, at present, three vacancies.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal for relaxing the age limit.

Sarkaria Committee on Delhi set-up

3071. SHRI HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 42 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 20th July, 1989 and state:

(a) by when the Sarkaria Committee is expected to present its report regarding